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Fall 2013

**Hampden Meadows Elementary School**

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**Introduction**

Hampden Meadows School is a public elementary school serving students in grades four through five within the Barrington, RI School District.

Under the administration of Principal Tracy McGee, Hampden Meadows Elementary School is located at 297 New Meadow Rd in Barrington, RI. The school office may be contacted via telephone at (401) 247-3166, or at the following website: <http://www3.barringtonschools.org/HMS/default.aspx>. (Barrington Public Schools, 2013).

This contact statement will provide detailed information around Hampden Meadows Elementary School, the Barrington, RI school district and the community of Barrington, RI. Prospective or current students, parents and educators will benefit from this analysis, as it provides a comprehensive overview of how Hampden Meadows is serving the students in the community.

To offer perspective into how Hampden Meadows compares to other schools within the state, this context statement will offer detailed comparisons on a state and multidistrict level. In an effort to compare and contrast schools with differing levels of academic achievement and socioeconomic status, information on three school districts will be presented; Barrington (Hampden Meadows Elementary School,) East Providence (Silver Spring Elementary School,) and Central Falls (Veteran Memorial, 4th grade and Calcut School, 5th grade.)

**Community Background**

Barrington, RI is a small, affluent community within Bristol County, which also includes the towns of Bristol and Warren. Located 9 miles SE of Providence, RI and 44 miles south of Boston, MA, Barrington spans almost 16 square miles; water comprises nearly 7 square miles, and no point is more than two miles from salt water. Barrington is home to a Town Beach, an abundance of parks and nature preserves, and offers its residents a plethora of activities to keep them involved and invested in the community. The streets of Barrington are meticulously maintained; the town’s center is tastefully decorated for each season and filled with an abundance of quaint, local businesses. Resident focused city ordinances, including the prohibition of drive through establishments and the use of plastic bags, have been implemented to preserve historic charm and promote an elevated quality of life. Out of 37 RI communities that report crime data to the FBI, Barrington ranked 32nd in violent crimes (Barrington Patch, 2013), and in July, 2005, CNN Money magazine ranked Barrington #6 on its list of 100 best places to live in the US. (CNN Money, 2013).

**Income/Poverty**

Barrington has the distinction of being among the wealthier towns in the United States. At $98,612, the median household income in Barrington nearly doubles that of Rhode Island and the United States as a whole. Nearly two thirds of Barrington’s residents are employed in a professional or office environment. In turn, the percent of people living below the poverty level in Barrington is 2.4%, which is significantly lower than the state average of 12.8%. (U.S. Census Bureau [USCB], 2011).

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| Income/Poverty | Barrington | RI | US |
| Median Household Income | $98,612 | $55,975 | $52,762 |
| Median Family Income | $117,978 | $72,724 | $64,293 |
| Per Capita Income | $46,838 | $29,685 | $27,915 |
| Management, Business, Science & Arts as Occupations | 63.3% | 36.7% | 35.7% |
| All Families Below Poverty Level | 1.9% | 8.9% | 10.5% |
| All People Below Poverty Level | 2.4% | 12.8% | 14.3% |

**Race/Ethnicity**

The population in Barrington is largely homogeneous, with white’s comprising 93.5% of the town’s population; white’s account for 81.4% of the population in Rhode Island, and 72.4% of the population in the United States. Notably, the population of Black/African American’s is significantly underrepresented in Barrington at 0.8%. (USCB, 2011).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Race/Ethnicity | Barrington | RI | US |
| White | 93.5% | 81.4% | 72.4% |
| Black/African American | 0.8% | 5.7% | 12.6% |
| Asian | 2.7% | 2.9% | 4.8% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 2.8% | 12.4% | 16.3% |
| American Indian and Alaska native | 0% | 0.4% | 0.7% |

**Familial Well Being**

Statistically, the quality of life for children in Barrington is highly favored; 13% of children in Barrington came from single-parent families, versus 31% of children in Rhode Island. There are no children with incarcerated parents in Barrington, and the instance of teen birth rate and child abuse are also considerably lower than the state averages. (RI Kids Count!, 2010/2012).

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| Familial Well Being | Barrington | RI |
| Children in Single Parent Families | 13% | 31% |
| Teen Birth Rate | 4% | 25.5% |
| Child Abuse and Neglect Per 1,000 Children | 2.6% | 13.9% |
| Rate of Children with Incarcerated Parents | 0% | 11% |

**District Summary**

**Qualifications and Student Teacher Ratio**

The percentage of teachers in Barrington who are not highly qualified is lower than not only the state average, but also the averages in East Providence and Central Falls. Notably, the student teacher ratio in Barrington is slightly higher in Barrington than within the state, East Providence and Central Falls. However, the School Analysis section will illustrate that this “disadvantage” does not seem to negatively affect academic performance within Barrington. (InfoWorks!, 2010-11).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Qualifications and Teacher-Student Ratio | State | Barrington | East Providence | Central Falls |
| Teachers with Emergency Certification | 1% | 0% | <1% | 2% |
| Not Highly Qualified Teachers | 3% | 1% | 3% | 6% |
| Teacher-Student Ratio | 1:11 | 1:12 | 1:10 | 1:10 |

**Funding and Resources**

Per pupil expenditure in Barrington is $12,379, which is lower than in both East Providence and Central Falls. However, the property value per student in Barrington is over four times higher and the median income is over three times higher than in Central Falls. The School Analysis section will demonstrate how this limitation is minimal. (InfoWorks!, 2010-11).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Funding and Resources | Barrington | East Providence | Central Falls |
| Property Value Per Student | $894,098.80 | $734,722.34 | $196,417.72 |
| Per Pupil Expenditure | $12,379 | $13,991 | $14,347 |
| Median Family Income | $84,657 | $48,463 | $26,844 |

**Graduation and Drop Out Rates**

Over 93% of students graduated high school in 2012. This figure substantially exceeds the averages within East Providence, Central Falls, and all of Rhode Island. As displayed below, the percentages for students who dropped out of school in 2012 follow suit. (InfoWorks!, 2011-12).

**School Analysis**

**Student Characteristics**

Nearly every student at Veteran Memorial and Calcut are eligible for subsidized lunch, versus 5% of students at Hampden Meadows. The percentages of students receiving ESL/Bilingual Education Services and Special Ed Services lower than the state average, as well as within a comparable school, Silver Spring in East Providence. This gap is even more considerable when we consider Veteran Memorial and Calcut of Central Falls. These specialized programs require considerable resources, and as a result, render schools such as those in Central Falls at a considerable monetary disadvantage. In turn, this facilitates an academic gap- one that a few thousand of per pupil expenditure will not sufficiently bridge. (InfoWorks!, 2012-13).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Student Characteristics | RI | Hampden Meadows | Silver Spring | Veteran Memorial/  Calcut |
| Student Eligibility for Subsidized Lunch | 46% | 5% | 51% | 99%/94% |
| Students Receiving ESL/Bilingual Education Services | 6% | 2% | 5% | 36%/26% |
| Students Receiving Special Ed. Services | 15% | 6% | 9% | 12%/24% |

**Safety and Support**

Safety and support appear paramount at Hampden Meadows School. Suspensions and chronic absenteeism are significantly lower than within the state and in the comparison schools; in turn, the percent of students that remain in the district is notably higher. This sense of security would certainly present a positive impact on overall academic performance. (InfoWorks!, 2012-13).

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| Safety and Support | RI Target | Hampden Meadows | Silver Spring | Veteran Memorial/  Calcut |
| Chronic Absenteeism | 17% | 4% | 37% | 19%/23% |
| Number of Incidents of Suspension | 2916 | 0 | 7 | 2/33 |
| Stability Index | 87% | 97% | 85% | 78%/74% |
| Mobility Index | 14% | 3% | 16% | 24%/29% |

**Enrichment**

Below is a list of enrichment activities offered to the students of Hampden Meadows Elementary School.

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| Enrichment Activities offered at Hampden Meadows | | | |
| Basketball | Creative Writing | Knitting | Painting |
| Cartooning | Dance | Logo Robotics | Running Clinic |
| Cheerleading | Fantasy Football | Loom Weaving | Scrapbooking |
| Chess | Field Hockey | Mad Science | Tennis |
| Clay | Keyboarding | Musical Theater | Yoga/Zumba |

**Necap Scores**

The standardized testing scores listed below appear to fall in line with the socioeconomic status of each district represented. The Necap scores achieved by the students of Hampden Meadows far surpass those achieved by the students in East Providence and within the state as a whole- and more than doubles that of the students in Central Falls. (InfoWorks!, 2012-13).

**Conclusion**

Hampden Meadows is a high performing, economically privileged school within a tight knit, wealthy community. The level of opportunity afforded to the students of Hampden Meadows is made possible by a fiercely supportive community and a superior level of parental support. Because of its stellar reputation, many families relocate to Barrington solely for the school system. Although the cost of living within the community may be higher than elsewhere in the state, the return is substantial. Comparisons to two other elementary schools within the state illustrated where Hampden Meadows ranks on the spectrum of Rhode Island elementary schools, and can serve as a reference point for any prospective or current parent, student, administrator or community member. Hampden Meadows will provide a solid, early educational foundation, and will provide a child with a nearly unparallel level of resources and support.

**References**

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